

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency
2 identification (“RFID”) technology, comprising steps of:

3 creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more
4 values; and

5 storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items
6 presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the unique
2 correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

1 3. A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification (“RFID”)
2 technology, comprising steps of:

3 searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper,
4 for a correlator value; and

5 concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if
6 the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed items.

1 4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step further comprises the steps
2 of:

3 searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value found in the
4 RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

5 concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for that
6 selected item is located in the step of searching the database.

1 5. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:
2 initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction,
3 using a function computed over one or more values; and
4 previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of
5 one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the
6 searching step.

1 6. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected
2 ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession
3 when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator
4 value was conducted.

1 7. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of remembering each item
2 that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a
3 transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the searching and
4 concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

1 8. A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one
4 or more values; and

5 means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or
6 more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 9. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for storing the unique
2 correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

1 10. A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID")
2 technology, comprising:

3 means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a
4 shopper, for a correlator value; and

5 means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not
6 paid for if the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed
7 items.

1 11. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding further comprises:

2 means for searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value
3 found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

4 means for concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for
5 that selected item is located by the means for searching the database.

1 12. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:

2 means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current
3 transaction, using a function computed over one or more values; and

4 means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to
5 each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of
6 the means for searching.

1 13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding concludes that
2 selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's
3 possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the
4 correlator value was conducted.

1 14. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for remembering each item
2 that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a
3 transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the means for
4 searching and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

1 15. A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on
3 one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a
5 current transaction, as a function of one or more values; and

6 computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an
7 RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 16. The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising computer-
2 readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous
3 transactions.

1 17. A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more
3 computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or
5 one or more items possessed by a shopper, for a correlator value; and

6 computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items
7 possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the selected items do not have an identical
8 correlator value to the other possessed items.

1 18. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable
2 program code means for concluding further comprises:

3 computer-readable program code means for searching a database of previous transactions,
4 looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the
5 conclusion; and

6 computer-readable program code means for concluding that any of the selected items was

7 paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable program
8 code means for searching the database.

1 19. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising:

2 computer-readable program code means for initially creating the correlator value as a
3 unique correlator value for a current transaction, using a function computed over one or more
4 values; and

5 computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created
6 correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the
7 current transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for
8 searching.

1 20. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable
2 program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were
3 paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
4 establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1 21. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising computer-
2 readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession
3 when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator
4 value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for searching and
5 computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.